

Visiting Heaven

Part 3

- Some may have been a little disappointed that in this series that doubt was cast on some of the detailed reports of people visiting heaven
 - o Test all things 1 Thess. 5:20-22
 - o 100% accuracy is required for a prophet Deut. 18:20-22
- At very least these reports are outside verification that there is something after death
 - o The bible tells us this with authority. Special revelation
 - o Life tells us this as well natural revelation

Last words/experiences of the dying - differences between believers and unbelievers

- John Knox (pastor) – “live in Christ and die in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death”
- Churchill - “I am convinced that there is no hope”
- Richard Baxter (pastor) - “I have pain but I have peace”
- Thomas Paine – “Stay with me, it is hell to be left alone”
- Joan Crawford - she went out with an expletive as she cursed at her housekeeper who I suppose was praying for her. “.... Don’t you dare ask God to help me!”
- Harriet Tubman “swing low, sweet chariot”
- Steve Jobs “oh wow, oh wow, oh wow.”
- Mozart - “A taste of death is upon my lips. I feel something that is not of this world
- Thomas Edison “It is very beautiful over there”
- Van Gogh “the sadness will last forever
- Toplady - writer of hymn “Rock of Ages”
 - o “I enjoy heaven already in my soul. My prayers are all converted into praise”
- Victor Hugo (les misérables) Here is the battle of day against night. I see black light
- Oscar Wilde - “the wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or the other of us has to go”
- Svenonius - “when you haven’t prayed your entire life it is not use at the last moment”
- Voltaire – (varying account) when asked to renounce satan “it is too late to make a new enemy” another reports - “I am abandoned by God and man. I shall go to hell! O Christ, O Jesus Christ.”
 - o Nurse said she would refuse all of Europe to watch another unbeliever die
- Julian the Apostate (Roman emperor who tried to stamp out Christianity) as he was dying on the battlefield with dagger lifted said, “Thou hast conquered o Galilean”
- Alfred Hitchcock - One never knows the ending. One has to die to know exactly what happens after death, although Catholics have their hopes
 - o (Baptist do as well ☺)

We don’t have to die to know what happens. Someone already did...and came back to tell us

- Jesus came from heaven John 3:13
- Jesus died and went to Paradise today you will be with Me in paradise

- o Father into Your hands I commit My spirit
- Jesus was resurrected. He came back from the dead and is THE Authority
- Jesus holds the keys of death and hell – Rev. 1:18 (opens and closes the door to eternity)

Jesus told an account of 2 men than went to the other side - Luke 16:19-31

1. 16:19-21 two men different in life and different in death
 - a. Ease in this life is no indicator of ease in the next life (hard for a rich man)
 - b. Italian artist Pietro Perugino (1523) last words were “I desire to go to hell and not to heaven, I the former place I shall enjoy the company of Popes, Kings and Princes, while in the latter are only beggars, monks and apostles”
2. 16:22
 - a. Rich man die and had a burial
 - b. Lazarus died (no mention of burial) Angels carried him to Abrahams side
 - i. Escort to eternity
3. 16:23 rich man wound up in hades (buried in ground but alive in Hades)
 - a. Torment in hell rich guy was in torment
 - b. Fellowship in heaven Lazarus and Abraham in fellowship
 - c. Recognition of people known in life and even history
 - d. Awareness of the other side Rev. 14:10 heaven and hell are real and both realized
4. 16:24
 - a. Desire to be pitied when in hell
 - b. Physicality (tongue/finger)
 - c. Agony in fire
5. 16:25
 - a. Recompense and justice. Things in this life have a bearing on the next life
 - i. The rich man is told to remember his past life. (Life flash before eyes)
6. 16:26
 - a. Great gulf fixed. No change of locations
 - b. “You can check out anytime you like but you can never leave”
7. 16:27-28
 - a. From hell, there is a concern for family (others) not to go to hell
 - b. Awareness of previous life
8. 16:29-30
 - a. The scriptures are a sufficient warning to the soon to be damned
 - b. Those in hell think a resurrection will produce repentance
 - c. Those in hell know that repentance is necessary
9. 16:31
 - a. If scripture is refused then a resurrection wont convince them
 - b. Someone did come back from the dead and most still refuse to repent